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## REVIEWS.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KANSAS. *By G. C. Swallow, State Geologist.* Lawrence (Kansas), 1866. 8vo.

Besides the General Report by Professor Swallow, this preliminary summary of the results of the Survey of Eastern and Central Kansas, contains special reports upon the economical Geology of ten counties, by Maj. F. Hawn, with Reports upon the Climatology of the State, by Dr. Tiffin Sinks, and upon the "Sanitary Relations of the State," by Dr. C. A. Logan.

If the survey had merely established the presence of extensive deposits of Gypsum, Salt, or Coal, it would have thrice repaid its expense to the State. Incalculable wealth may result from a proper use of these discoveries, and the attractions they offer to the capital and labor of the east are very great. The soils of the numerous valleys, and the centre of the State overlying the bands of Triassic and Permian beds, with their "gypsum marls," are described as extremely rich. Even the Coal Measures, here unusually productive, are covered by the bluff formation which makes "the very best soils of the State." The purely scientific interest of the Report we have no space to mention; it is almost wholly devoted to Economical Geology, and in this respect partakes of the general want of completeness manifested in many of our State Reports. This is in no way attributable to their scientific authors, but to the very limited pecuniary aid given them by our legislators. This must necessarily render many of our State reports superficial, and greatly inferior in point of information and economical value to what they might be, were the work of the American Geologist properly supported, both by popular sympathy and proper pecuniary encouragement. With a few honorable exceptions, the State appropriations for Geological surveys, have barely enabled the Geologist to make even the most superficial reconnoissance. It is to be hoped, now that several States are again appropriating funds for Geological, Zoölogical and Botanical Surveys, the means afforded may be ample. The United States Coast Survey has surpassed all similar undertakings in Europe. Why may not the Geological explorations and the construction of Geological maps be carried on with the same energy and equal success, both in a scientific and pecuniary point of view?

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR 1865. *Washington*, 1866. 8vo.

There are but few naturalists, especially those residing away from the scientific centres of our country, who have not been aided and en-

couraged in their studies, either by the private correspondence or published works of the Smithsonian Institution. How many young naturalists, and we speak from personal experience, scattered over the country, away from libraries and the stimulus of scientific intercourse, owe to this Institution, founded by the bequest of James Smithson, of England, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," a great part of their success in investigating natural phenomena!

No institution known to us, in any land, has by such a wise and economical management of its funds, done so much for the advancement of all departments of science. This has been accomplished by the wide and generous distribution of its numerous publications, the use of its large and unique library of scientific periodicals, its duplicates from the Museum of Natural History, and its loan, necessarily guarded, of meteorological instruments, together with its ready aid to those conducting original investigations, and by its general sympathy with the highest scientific culture.

The present volume, printed and distributed as a Congressional document, contains beside the annual statement of the accounts and doings of the Institution, articles of general interest. Among such are the eulogies on General Joseph G. Totten, the conchologist and eminent military engineer, and on Ducrotay de Blainville, the student, unsuccessful rival, and finally the successor of Cuvier in the Jardin des Plantes. There is also an account of the Aurora Borealis or Polar Light, by Professor Elias Loomis; an article on the Senses, translated from the German periodical *Aus der Natur*; lectures on Electro-Physiology, by Professor Carl Matteuci, of Turin, and a very full account by Professor E. Desor, of the "Palafittes, or Lacustrine Constructions on the Lake of Neuchatel," an article of great interest at present owing to the discussions on the antiquity of Man. Throughout the text are distributed numerous cuts illustrating the implements of the age of Stone, of Bronze and of Iron. The report of this able and cautious investigator brings out clearly the fact "that it was the same people who inhabited our soil [Switzerland] during the ages of Stone, and of Bronze, and up to the time of the invasion by the Helvetians."

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CONCHOLOGY. Edited by G. W. Tryon, jr., Philadelphia. Published quarterly at \$10 per year.

The second volume of this Journal, illustrated by twenty-seven colored and plain plates, is completed. It contains many valuable articles by the leading Conchologists of this country, and will be found useful to all studying the Mollusca.